'UNCLE JOSH' AT HOME

Where the Proprietor of the Old Homestead Lives.

SOON TO LEAVE THE STAGE

Tells How His Play Came Into Existence.

THE RESULT OF DEVELOPMENT

Originally a Short Skit Picturing the Characteristics of Some of His

Neighbors.

BY WILLIAM E. CURTIS.

KEENE, N. H., July 28, 1907. Six miles below Keene is the quiet little village of Swanzey, with a couple of factories at which buckets and butter and egg boxes are made. It is a cluster of oldfashioned houses with two or three stores, a couple of churches, a school house, a blacksmith shop and a grist mill which is turned by the waters of a roaring brook. Millions of people have seen Swanzey and are personally acquainted with some of its most interesting inhabitants, for the village is the scene of "The Old Homestead," which "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and Joshua Whitcomb and the other characters are taken years ago Denman Thompson brought his mpany to Keene, where he gave a performance in the theater and invited the entire population of the township of Swanzey. He brought them up and took them back to their homes after the play in a

recognize local scenes and local characters and have been talking about it ever since. Denman Thompson's Home.

special train. They filled the body of the house and saw themselves as others see

them, which is a rare privilege. Mr. Thompson's townspeople were very quick to

While Mr. Thompson was not born in Swanzey, his parents were, and he spent his childhood and early manhood here; and when he got money enough he bought the genuine old homestead and has since spent his summers here. He has a farm of about 100 acres and a large, comfortable frame house painted green with white trimmings in the midst of handsome grounds that are ornamented with iror, deer and dogs, and dancing girls, and an iron colored boy stands at the gatepost to hold the horses of visitors. The barn matches the house and is quite as pretentlong and comhorses of visitors. The barn matches the house and is quite as pretentious and comfortable. Mr. Thompson is so careful of "them steers" and his Jersey cows and calves of colts that he has wire screens in the windows of his stables and protects them from the sun with pink awnings. He has a hothouse and a conservatory in which he propagates garden plants and early vegetables and raises rare flowers. He is a practical farmer and the neighbors say that he looks and acts just the same in the meadow and the barnyard as he does on that he looks and acts just the same in the meadow and the barnyard as he does on the stage. He needs no make-up. He is "Uncle Josh" all the time. But it is not a continuous performance, At present he does most of his labor in a rocking chair on the porch or driving around through the country helind a lazy old gray mare riscountry behind a lazy old gray mare gos-siping with the farmers and interrupting them in their work. It is unnecessary to say that they are always glad to be interrupted. He knows every man, woman and child in the township and they call him "Uncle Josh."

Mr. Charles Thompson, as son and business manager, lives with him and sees that the wheels go round. Mrs. Kilpatrick and Mrs. McFarland, his daughters, who appear in the caste of the play, have handsome places in the neighborhood. A Genial Old Gentleman.

I found him sitting on the porch of his daughter's cottage on the shores of Swanzey lake, a couple of miles from his own home. He says it was Swanzey pond when he was a boy and used to go fishing and swimming there, but they call it a lake in order to increase the price of property in the neighborhood.

He is a genial old gentleman, is Uncle Josh Whitcomb, off the stage as well as behind the footlights, and now that he has celebrated his seventy-fourth birthday, he is beginning to take life easy. Few men have earned a rest more honestly than he. Few men have given so many millions of people pleasure. There is scarcely a per-son in the United States who ever atson in the United States who ever at-tends the theater that has not seen "The Old Homestead" at least once, and no play has ever exercised a more healthful and wholesome influence upon the public than wholesome influence upon the public that that homely but beautiful paraphrase of ife at Swanzey.
"I guess I must have played 'Uncle

Josh' nearly 12,000 times," said Mr. Thompson in answer to my question 'I have taken that part an average of ten times week, forty weeks in the year, for a week, forty weeks in the year, for thirty-two years, and some of my people have been with me for twenty years. I can play it in my sleep. You remember the story of the actor who was looking for a job and told the manager that he knew 'Hamlet' backward. 'We don't play it that way' registed the it that way,' replied the manager, and I don't play Uncle Josh in my sleep either. This is a good climate to sleep in. You can get more comfort out of life with less trouble at Swanzey than at any place I know, and to me, of course, it's the dearest and and to me, of course, it's the dearest and the most beautiful town in the world.

'I am going to quit the stage pretty soon and have a good time with my old friends here. I have a contract to play six weeks during the coming winter—one week in Newark, one in Philadelphia and four weeks in the Academy of Music at Nam. Verk. New York. Then I am going to quit and William Lawrence, who has been my understudy, will take my part, and I hope he will go on playing the 'Old Homestead' as long as I played it. It's a play that don't seem to grow old. The public seems to the little of the long as they did at to like it just as well now as they did at first, and I know that thousands of people

How the Play Was Born.

"Yes, all of my original support are gone. Len Holbrook, the fiddler, was the last. He brook. 'The Old Homestead' was an accident, as you remember," continued Mr. Thompson, "or, rather, it was originally intended as a makeshift. I was doing a dancing part in an Irish comedy at Pitts-burg at Henry Martin's Varieties, in January, 1875, when I had a severe attack of rheumatism and had to give up my role. Realizing that I could not dance any more, while I lay in bed racked with pain and wondering how I could earn a living. I con-ceived the idea of a skit in which I could represent some of our eccentric characters at Swanzey without using my legs too much, and the result was the Joshua Whitcomb. At first it was a sketch not more than twenty-five minutes long, and pre-sented the street scene in Boston in which Uncle Joshua had a number of exciting and laughable adventures, and the birthday party, in which he made the liveliest sort of merriment and homely talk. I did my best to give an accurate imitation of two actual personages in Swanzey-Capt. Otis Whiteomb and Joshua Holbrook, whom I had known and seen every day in my childhood. Capt. Whitcomb furnished the comedy for he was a very comical man, and Uncle Josh Holbrook the more serious and Uncle Josh Holbrook the more serious element of the composite. They are both dead now, although Capt. Whitcomb lived to see himself caricatured on the stage, and one of the most popular types of American life ever presented to the public.

"The skit was so successful that we added to it and introduced other Swanger.

added to it and introduced other Swanzey characters. The original of Aunt Matilda was a sister of Joshua Holbrook and was known to everybody in Swanzey as 'Aunt Rhody'—a tender-hearted, honest woman, had the reputation of being the biggest liar in Cheshire county, and Seth Perkins was can be found in every New England village. School teacher and the relatives and neightern. Henry Hookins, the city man, was recoid bors all took a hand in deciding my desti-

An After-inventory Clear-up in Men's Clothing!

has been one of the busiest Fridays in the history of the store. For this sale is no ordinary sale—the finest quality suits in the house are being sacrificed-lines seldom placed in a sale.

Throughout the higher priced and finest lines of Men's Suits we find that we have over 300 suits too many for this time of the yearso out they are to go regardless of what we lose by the operation. It's a splendid chance to secure the best clothing in the world at nearly

From all the \$27.50, \$25, \$22.50 and \$20 Suits== absolutely every one in the store to choose from except plain blues and plain blacks -- you can pick the suit that you

fancy and it is yours by paying Both 2-piece and 3-piece Suits; many in the weights that can be

worn through the fall as well as at present; all sizes for men of all

All the High-grade Trousers Going.

The entire stock of Outing and Dress Trousers is on the list to L THE \$4 TROUSERS NOW

Additional Clearance Items.

One-Fine Quality White Flannel Coat, size 34; sold \$2.50 for \$10; special at...... Lot of \$1 and \$1.50 Wash Vests; sizes 33 to 38; many 50c styles; reduced to

Lot of High-grade Wash Vests that sold for \$2 \$ 1.19 and \$2,50; sizes 34 to 40; now at..... Men's Light-weight Striped Office Coats that sell at 39c 50c; now at.....

Lot of 5 Stylish English Walking Suits; imported gray worsteds; sold at \$25; sizes 37 and 38.. \$11.75



builds from 34 to 50.

A Great Millinery Special.

Tomorrow, for the one day's selling, we shall offer a beautiful collection of about four dozen Women's Stylishly Trimmed and Very Handsome Hats, in all the smartest effects for late summer and early fall wear. These hats are all one-of-a-style patterns, and the selling price regularly has been \$3.98 and 98C \$4.98; for Saturday we price them all

Straw Hat Clearance.

ALL CHILDREN'S \$2 and \$2.50 Milan Straw 98C Sailors to be closed out at.... ALL BOYS STRAW Hats, none of which sold under \$1, to be closed out at. 50C ALL CHILDREN'S Straw Sallors that have 39C

EVERY PANAMA
Hat in the store—all high grade and genuine—sold at \$6 and \$7.50 LOT OF BOYS WELL-MADE Eton Caps that sell for 25c now 5C

Four Footwear Specials.

WOMEN'S FINE BLACK VICT Oxfords; turn soles; not all sizes; sell at \$1.69

Close at 5 O'Clock Daily. Close at 6 O'Clock on Saturdays.



WHERE YOU CAN HAVE IT CHARGED

Women's Summer Wear.

LOT OF HANDSOME MARQUISE | Shirt Walst Suits, in white India linens; beautiful new styles; superbly designed and trimmed; very stylish; sold at \$5 and \$6; for clear-\$1.98

LOT OF WOMEN'S FINE WHITE India Lawn Washable Skirts; embroidered and pleated; have never sold under 13; \$1.29 for quick clearance....

LOT OF CHINA SILK WAISTS: beautifully embroidered fronts; both black and white; sold at \$3.98; a \$1.69 LOT OF WHITE IRISH LINEN Suits; coat elaborately trimmed with braid and edged with val. lace; Eton effect; sell \$12.50 at \$30. Clearance price...

LOT OF VERY STYLISH WHITE Eton Sults; very desirable and up-to-date; dozens sold at \$6.98; for a quick \$1.98 LOT OF COAT SUITS IN FINEST white linenes; pleated skirts with tallor-stitched bands; double and single breasted; sold at \$10; \$4.98 for a quick clearance..... LOT OF FINEST WHITE AND Cream Serge, Panama, Brilliantine and Voile Skirts; splendidly tallored and very stylish; sold \$4.98 up to \$15; for clearance.... LOT OF FINE WHITE LINEN COAT Suits that sell regularly at \$12.98; new and very \$6.98 out at. LOT OF VERY STYLISH AND Handsome White India Linen Princess Suits, elaborately trimmed with lace in beautiful designs; girdle effect of lace; \$4.98

Saturday's Grocery Underpricing.

Best Granulated Sugar-not more than 10 pounds to a

CHOICE SUGAR-CURED HAMS	1574
PILLSBURY'S BEST FLOUR; % BBL.	
SHRIVER'S BLUE RIDGE CORN	
SHRIVER'S SILVER LABEL PEAS	8%
APPLES; LARGE CANS; ALBEMARLE PIPPINS	
NANTICOKE TOMATOES	716
ONYX COFFEE.	
BABBITT'S SOAP; 7 FOR	
SALMON STEAK; FLAT CANS	
FLY PAPER; 5 DOUBLE SHEETS	
CORN FLAKES; LARGE PKG	
JELLYCON; ALL FLAVORS	6%6
PURE LARD; 5-LB. PAIL	57e
BROOKE'S CRYSTAL SOAP	3%e
TAZA CHAR TEA; 10C PKG	8760
RUMFORD'S BAKING POWDER; 1-LB	23e
EGG-0-SEE	
PURE BLACK PEPPER; ¼-LB	
GOLD DUST; THREE 5C PKGS	100
I. X. L. STARCH	31/20
AFTER-DINNER ML.TS; 25C BOX	180
B7 44 0 4 D 0 C1 4	

Youths' and Boys' Clothing at Lowest-Notch Prices.

SPECIAL-From the entire stock of Boys' Doublebreasted and Norfolk Suits, where the heavy selling has left but one and two of a kind, we have set apart about 170 suits. These suits have been selling as high as \$5, but as we \$1.98 these 170 suits are to go at

ALL THE BOYS' RENOWNED REGATTA WASH SUITS—THE finest make in the world—are to go at exactly half price. Sold at \$1.50 to \$4; many kinds and styles. All the \$4 suits at \$2, all the

LOT OF 15 YOUNG MEN'S SUITS—1 AND 2 OF A KIND \$5.75 from the leading lines—sizes 16 to 19 years; have never sold under \$5.75 ALL THE YOUNG MEN'S SUITS, EXCEPT BLUE SERGES, \$9.75 that sell regularly up to \$15, now greatly underpriced for Saturday

An After-inventory Clear-up in Furnishings.

Of chief importance are two gigantic lots of Finest Neglige Shirts that are to be sold tomorrow at prices away below what we paid. They are the high-class "Manchester" and another make that is known to "Eclipse" all others. They are in the finest plain white bosom negliges-some in neat dots and pin stripes. They are made to fit, all materials are the finest, and the values are positively unequaled at the prices. Buy them at these prices-

All the \$1.25 and \$1.50 | All the Elegant \$1.75 and Manchester Shirts.

\$2 Shirts at

59c.

79c.

LOT OF WOMEN'S BLACK AND Tan Gauze Hose; silk finished; very sheer; wear and look like 15c

WOMEN'S FINEST WHITE ALL-over Lace and Boot Pattern Hose; have never sold under 15C LOT OF WOMEN'S BLACK GAUZE Hose; very sheer and light weight; good-wearing quality; for rapid selling tomorrow..... 15c

WOMEN'S TAN AND
Brown Silk Gloves; 2-clasp;
sold at 59c; now to be closed 15c
out at only.
WOMEN'S FINE WHITE RICHElieu Ribbed Vests; silk
tape edges; sell at 25c; to 12 2 c
be closed out at. WOMEN'S \$1.50 COMBINATION Sults in all sizes; extra quality and very desirable; a great 50c bargain at.

These Handsome Bamboo Stools,

After 12:30 o'clock tomorrow we shall sell these Extra Well-made and Pretty-pattern Bamboo Stools at 25c. They are covered with finest grade Japanese matting.



Great Bargains in the Girls' Department.

TWO HUNDRED GIRLS' WELLmade Gingham Dresses in many styles; sizes 6 to 14 years; the selling price is up to \$2; now aff to go at..... OT OF GIRLS' FINE ACCORDIONpleated Slik Dresses; sizes 12 and 14 years; sold at \$15; to be closed out now at.....

FINEST WHITE DRESSES FOR Girls, 10, 12 and 14 years; handsomely embroidered; the regular \$5.00

LOT OF MISSES WHITE SKIRTS; excellently tailored of extra quality materials; sell at \$1.98; for rapid clear-

LOT OF CHILDREN'S LINGERIE Hats, one and two of a kind; have been selling up to \$3.00; a big reduction to

Toilets == Large Reductions

SACHET ENVELOPES, ALL ODORS; & AND 10c USUALLY CUTICURA OINTMENT. POMPEIAN MASSAGE CREAM... PEROXIDE OF HYDROGEN.....

New Hampshire playfellow, who used to sit on the same bench with me in the little red schoolhouse. He went to New York and are more or less taken from life, although they do not represent any particular per-sons. There are duplicates of them among about the world.

Immense Returns Enjoyed.

"In the summer of 1875," continued Mr. Thompson, "when I was giving my skit at the Coliseum in Chicago, 1 met J. M. Hill of Willoughby & Hill, the clothing merchants, who was a New Hampshire man, and not only had a thorough knowledge of New England life and character, but was a remarkably shrewd and energetic manager. He became my man of business, and by his advice 'The Old Homestead' was de-veloped into its present proportions, although it has been changed considerably from time to time. Some of the old dialogue and features have been dropped and new ones introduced. Indeed, of late years we have never played it twice alike. Everybody in the cast has been so familiar with the lines that fraquent interroductions have the lines that frequent interpolations have been made, but it has always remained a homely but true picture of farm life to illustrate the best there is in human nature, always go to see it every year when it

to awaken the memories and to stir the emotions of men and women who have come from the farms and to teach a wholesome lesson to the young. The play in its entirety was first presented in 1876 at Hooley's Theater in Chicago, and during the next six years Mr. Hill and I divided nearly half a million deliars as profits.

"No, I was not born in Swanzey," continued Mr. Thompson, "although my fa.ner and grandfather and their ancestors for several generations were natives of this place. They were descended from one of the original colonists, to whom the township of Swanzey was granted by the colonial authorities of Massachusetts in 1735. The township was divided into sixty-three parts, each of the sixty settlers having one part, with one share reserved for the church, one for the minister and one for the school. Each settler paid £5 for his share, and contributed his shang of the expense of making the survey and to build the church and the schoolhouse. Lot No. 43 was awarded to John Thompson, and from that date to this our family has lived in Swanzey. My father, Capt. Rufus Thompson, in 1831 decided to go west, and emigrated to a little settlement called Beechwood, in that little corner of Pennsylvania that faces on Lake Eric. The town is now wood, in that little corner of Pennsylvania that faces on Lake Erie. The town is now called Girard, and there I was born in 1833. My father did not succeed very well there, however, and returned to Swanzey in my childhood. He was a sort of jack-of-all trades—a mechanical genius—and, in addi-tion to farming, did odd jobs about the township of every imaginable character, from mending a watch or a leaky teakettle to making the plans for a house. My father lived to be ninety years old and saw me in 'The Old Homestead' many times.

Denman Thompson's Career. "I went to the district school at Swanzey and attended Mt. Caezar Seminary in the neighboring town several winters. The rest of the time I worked and helped my father in his various trades. It was intended that I should be a carpenter. But I got restdy'—a tender-hearted, honest woman, was beloved and respected by every Cy Prime was a fellow townsman who let me go to Boston to seek my fortune. The adventure was the subject of discussion, contemplation and prayer, public and private, all that winter. The minister, the

ny. Finally my father gave in and, saying 'Thy will, O Lord, not mine, be done, consented to my departure. With a new suit of clothes and several pairs of mittens and stockings I started for Boston. The first job I got there was with a circus, where I had charge of the banners and poles, rode in the opening pageant, and, after some practice and instruction, took my place among thirty or more acrobats and tum-blers. After the circus had finished its season I got a job as supernumerary on the stage at the Howard Athenaeum, and assisted to shove the scenery about when Charlotte Cushman played Lady Macbeth. Then I got a job as doorkeeper and lec-Then I got a job as doorkeeper and lecturer for a collection of portraits of Indian chiefs, and finally landed in the dry goods store of my uncle, D. D. Baxter, at Lowell. But that business was too tame for me and I went back to the stage the next year, where I had a speaking part and did a number of fancy dances in 'The French Spy.' That was in the fall of 1852 and I have been before the footilights are since have been before the footlights ever since. I have played many parts, in many places, until I settled down with 'The Old Homestead,' and no member of my profession has been more richly rewarded for his work or has more kind and devoted friends." GOV. GUILD AVOIDS FAIRBANKS.

Afraid He Would Have to Say Nice Things About Him.

BOSTON, August 2.- Taking his tip from President Roosevelt and Senator Lodge, who are opposed to any encouragement of the Fairbanks presidential boom. Gov. Gulld of Massachusetts has twice this week deliberately avoided any appearance in public with the Vice President, which might have placed him in a position where courtesy would have demanded that he pay some tribute to the Indiana man. The governor did not even meet the Vice President until Tuesday night, although Mr. Fairbanks has been in Boston since Sunday and has daily appeared at public meeting

and dinners.

Monday the governor declined an invitation to a meeting at Mechanics Hall, where the Vice President was also a guest, and on the same day he avoided attending a luncheon given to Mr. Fairbanks by Mayor Tuesday Gov. Gulld hurrled away from Symphony Hall just as Vice President Fairbanks was arriving.

Tuesday night the governor gave an informal dinner to the Vice President at the Algonquin Club, but he saw to it that there as no speech-making.

Four of Family Die Alike.

HAGERSTOWN, Md., August 2.-Miss Elizabeth Hause, eighty-one years old, died Wednesday at her home in Hagerstown of complication of diseases. Her brother, Jacob Hause, an inventor, fell unconscious in his yard and died shortly afterward on Monday. The day after his funeral his sisstanday. The day after his funeral his sister died in the same way. A few days ago her sister, Miss Catherine Hause, aged seventy-one years, similarly fell unconscious in the same yard where the others had been attacked. The mother of the three aged persons died in the same way fourteen way. en years ago. Three sisters survive

DR. W. T. HOWARD DEAD.

End Came Suddenly to Aged Teacher and Physician.

BALTIMORE, August 2.-Dr. William Travis Howard, one of the most renowned gynecologists in the country, for forty-one years an eminent practicing physician of this city, died Wednesday morning of ptomaine poisoning at the Massasoit Hotel, Narragansett Pier, after a short illness. He was eighty-six years of age. Together with Mrs. Howard he left for Narragansett Pier last Wednesday, and shortly after their arrival he was taken ill with ptomaine polsoning. His condition not improving, Mrs. Howard telegraphed for Dr. Samuel C. Chew, who was associated with Dr. Howard during his professorship at the University of Maryland. Dr. Chew hurrled to the venerable physician's aid, but he was unable to save him, and the large coterie of professional and personal friends of the well-known practitioner were greatly shocked when the news of his death was

greater part of his life was devoted to the study of that branch of medicine. He was the family physician for many of the most prominent families in the city, and during his forty-one years of constant practice made many friends. His connection with the University of Maryland, where he was both student and teacher; with the Johns Hopkins Hospital and other medical institutions in the city, brought him in contact with many physicians, and his strong personality was felt wherever he went.

He was born in Cumberland county, Va. He was born in Cumberland county, Va. January 12, 1821, and received his prelimi nary education at Hampden-Sidney and Randolph-Macon colleges. His medical studies were begun as a pupil of Dr. John Peter Mattauer, an eminent surgeon of his native state. He later attended the Uni-versity of Maryland, even then one of the leading medical schools in the country, and the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, from which institution he was graduated with the degree of doctor of medicine in 1844. He was a resident student at the Baltimore almshouse during his vacations, studying under Drs. Thomas H. Buckler and William Power.

David Christie Murray, the novelist and Dr. Howard was one of the first prominent gynecologists of the country, and the noon. He was born in 1847.



Niagara Falls Round S10 Trip August 7, 21, September 11 25, October o

Pennsylvania RAILROAD SPECIAL TRAIN

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Emblems.

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We Have It." S. N. MEYER,

DR. JAMES

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We know the right kind of paint and the proper paper to use to bring out the most striking effects. That's why we're leaders in PAINTING AND PAPERHANGING. PLITT, Painter, 1727 7tb st. n.w. Paperhanger, 'Phone N. 4123.

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